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## Will to Jim, 15 July 1963

William F. Winter

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# STATE TAX COLLECTOR



WILLIAM F. WINTER  
STATE TAX COLLECTOR

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

July 15, 1963

Dr. James W. Silver  
The University of Mississippi  
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

I have been so busy campaigning that I have neglected to respond to your recent inquiry about Higgs. The general consensus here is that Higgs probably was guilty of the offense with which he was charged, but his apprehension undoubtedly was the result of the fact that he was a marked man because of his activities. I do not know of any lawyers here who had a very favorable opinion of him, and this, I think, was based on what most of them felt were his overly aggressive tactics and a coldly calculated decision that his long term professional and political interests lay on the side that he represented. ~~That~~ undoubtedly was a mixture of idealism with a rather large quantity of imagined self-interest in what he did.

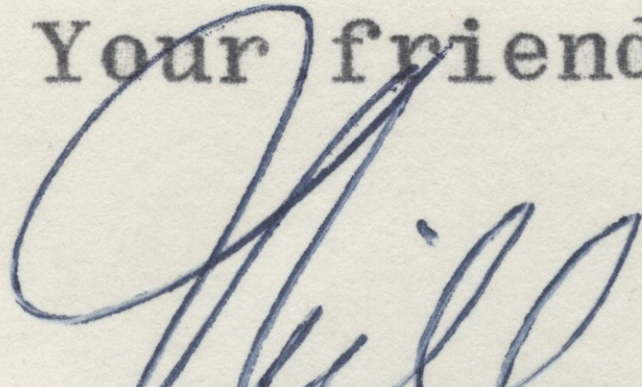
For example, Claude Ramsay felt that he was as concerned with extracting as large a fee as he could get from labor as he was in the achievement of the results in the case involving the suit to enjoin the payment of state funds to the Citizens Council.

What I am really saying, I suppose, is that Higgs was not a particularly admirable character, but that he possibly would not have gotten into trouble if he had not represented the extreme position that he did.

I hope to get to see you sometime before long.

With best wishes, I am

Your friend,

  
William Winter

WW:ets